

**PSEC Consistory Meeting
St James UCC, Limerick
September 21, 2019**

Consistory Members Present: Mr. Lee Metzger, Rev. Jenny Smith, Mr. Ray Edwards, Rev. Bill Middleton, Ms. Jennie Strauch, Rev. Bill Worley, Rev. Ann-Therese Ortiz, Rev. Bonnie Dalious, Rev. Anne Cormier, Rev. Beth Lyon, Rev. Mark Roberts, Mr. John Jones

Consistory Members Excused: Mr. Tim Kissling

Conference Staff Excused: Rev. Sharon Morris, Rev. Cean James

Following introductions and sharing of how we spent our summer vacation, Jennie Strauch called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Mark Roberts provided a devotion on Acts 3:1-10 as well as a hymn and prayer.

The minutes from the July 27 meeting were approved with one change spelling out OnA as Open and Affirming.

Communications

Jennie Strauch received an email from Sara Barra (St. Peters UCC, Pinegrove, Schuylkill Association) tendering her resignation from Consistory. Jennie will report that to the Schuylkill Nomination Committee requesting a replacement be identified.

E-ballot

Jenny Smith reported that an August e-ballot passed unanimously to contribute \$1,000 toward funeral expenses for Rev. Kermit Newkirk who served Harold O. Davis church in Philadelphia.

Reports

Ray Edwards provided the Finance report. OCWM is slightly behind budget (\$825). Ray reviewed the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and endowment activity. It was noted that the value of the endowment has increased based on market returns; also, we are currently drawing down 4% (we are required by law to draw a minimum of 2% and a maximum of 6%). The new budget is based on a 3% draw on endowment funds and a 3% increase in salaries. We do not yet have the health insurance numbers, but anticipate a 3% increase.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report passed. (Motion: Lee Metzger; 2nd: Mark Roberts)

Following review and discussion, the Consistory accepted the 2020 budget from the Budget and Finance Committee, with a motion to restore the Justice and Witness funding from \$500 to \$1,000, to be offset by a \$500 increase in OCWM income. (Motion: Beth Lyon; 2nd; Ann-Therese Ortiz)

It was recommended that promotion of new ministries grants at the fall association and conference meetings highlight interest in proposals that transform the world for social justice for all, e.g., the opioid crisis and climate change.

The Consistory voted for the Conference staff to explore and seriously consider a move to a mobile office for the next budget year. (Motion: Ray Edwards; 2nd: Lee Metzger) Note that the current office is rented on a year-to-year basis.

Kim Kulesa is the new Conference Bookkeeper.

The Personnel Committee's written report was received.

Karl Jones' Disaster Coordinator written report was received along with a description of the PA VALOR program. Consistory approved Karl's request to begin planning a 2020 mission rebuild trip to Puerto Rico.

The Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development, Rev. Cean James' written report was received. It was noted that St. John's Orwigsburg is incorrectly listed as one of the churches with whom Cean is working.

Conference Minister Bill Worley's report was received. The 2019 Fall Annual meeting will be on November 17, 3-5 PM at Ursinus College. Those present decided to revise the agenda to address ideas around social justice ministry (particularly opioid addiction and climate change), the possible transition to a mobile Conference office, as well as the 2020 budget. A suggestion for the Spring meeting is having a speaker focusing on how our churches can talk about difficult/divisive issues in a productive and healing way. Preliminary plans are for Spring meeting to be held June 4-6 at The Inn at Reading.

The Generations of Service Campaign still needs \$6,000 more in pledges. We will be sending out a reminder letter to those who have pledged, but have not paid in full. A letter will also be sent to those churches who have not pledged at all.

We need to elect a new Vice Moderator; it needs to be a clergy person. Also, we need two youth representatives on the consistory as well as a representative from Schuylkill Association.

The PNEC Conference Minister is currently scheduled to attend our November Consistory meeting. If possible, we will move the meeting from Saturday the 16th to Sunday the 17th at 1:30 PM immediately preceding the Fall meeting. Jennie will check with those not present to see if they can attend.

We lift up Sharon Morris and Tim Kissling who both recently had surgery. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Smith, Secretary